

In the light of the facts outlined above by Dr Zeidler, I support his proposal to the Commission as being the best means of preventing the switch of the specific name *rapax* from *Hemityphlus tenuimanus* to *Parapronoe crustulum*.

Comment on the proposed conservation of the specific names of *Aphodius rufus* (Moll, 1782), *A. foetidus* (Herbst, 1783) and *Aegialia rufa* (Fabricius, 1792) (Insecta, Coleoptera)
(Case 2878; see BZN 51: 121–127, 340–341; 52: 71–73; 53: 123–125, 191)

Giovanni Dellacasa

C.P. 921, 16121 Genoa, Italy

Since the appearance (BZN 51: 340–341) of my first comment on this application three sets of further comments have been published (from Dr Silfverberg, Dr Krell and Dr Stebnicka in BZN 52: 71–73; from Dr Szwalko and Dr Krell in BZN 53: 123–125; and from Dr Král in BZN 53: 191).

It is not necessary to look again into the irrefutable validity of the specific names of *Dischista rufa* (De Geer, 1778) and *Aegialia spissipes* LeConte, 1878, but proposals (1) on the names *Aphodius scybalarius* (Fabricius, 1781) and *A. foetidus* (Herbst, 1783); and (2) on *A. rufus* (Moll, 1782) and *A. arcuatus* (Moll, 1785) merit further discussion.

1. The specific name of *Aphodius scybalarius* (Fabricius, 1781) was misapplied to *A. foetidus* (Herbst, 1783) without any exception for more than 150 years, until Landin (1956, p. 213) established on a revision of type material that *scybalarius* was identical with the taxon long known as *A. rufus* (Moll, 1782). He (p. 214) designated a lectotype for *scybalarius*, recording that it was a strongly melanic specimen of the taxon.

I propose that Landin's (1956) lectotype designation for *scybalarius* be set aside and that this name be accepted in accord with its long use in the taxonomic sense of *foetidus*.

In my (1983) monographic work on Italian APHODIINI, mentioned by Krell in his comment (BZN 53: 124–125), although I completely agreed with Landin's view (1956, p. 225) that the name *rufus* (Moll, 1782) should be conserved since 'an alteration of the nomenclature on this point would involve great confusion of ideas', I considered that I was compelled to adopt the name *scybalarius* for the taxon. This was in accord with Silfverberg (1977), who had strictly applied the principle of priority. Landin wrote to me at the time that he had not actually submitted a proposal to the Commission to conserve the name *rufus* Moll (see the application, para. 3).

2. The synonymy of the names *Aphodius rufus* (Moll, 1782) and *A. arcuatus* (Moll, 1785) was recorded by 19th century authors. Harold (1871, p. 120) established that *arcuata* was a junior synonym of *rufus* on the basis of Moll's types, and Stein & Weise (1877, p. 194) noted '*Aphodius arcuatus* (Moll, 1785) = *Aphodius rufescens* Fabricius, 1801 = *Aphodius rufus* (Moll, 1782)'.

I now affirm my proposals to the Commission that (1) the name *Aphodius scybalarius* (Fabricius, 1781) be accepted in the sense of *A. foetidus*, and (2) *A. arcuatus* (Moll, 1785) be adopted in place of the junior homonym *A. rufus* (Moll, 1782).